

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 19.84 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Human Services Committee** was held on Wednesday, August 26, 2009 in Room 200 of the Northern Building – 305 East Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Present: Pat Evans, Steve Fewell, Julie Knier, Tom Lund, Pat LaViolette, Pat Moynihan.
Excused: Jesse Brunette.
Also Present: Kurt Hogarty, Mary Johnson, Jayme Sellen.
Supervisor Mary Scray.
Other Interested Parties.

I. **Call Meeting to Order:**
The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Tom Lund at 6:00 p.m.

II. **Approve/Modify Agenda:**

Motion made by Supervisor Knier and seconded by Supervisor LaViolette to approve. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

III **Approve//Modify Minutes of July 22, 2009:**

Motion made by Supervisor Moynihan and seconded by Supervisor LaViolette to approve. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Comments from Public/Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law: None.

Report from Human Services Chair, Patrick Evans: None.

1. **Review Minutes of:**
 - a. **Aging & Disability Resource Center Board (July 15, 2009)**
 - b. **Children with Disabilities Education Board (June 23, 2009)**
 - c. **Community Options Program Planning Committee (July 27, 2009)**
 - d. **Human Services Board (July 21, 2009)**
 - e. **Human Services Board (August 13, 2009)**
 - f. **Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee (July 14, 2009)**

Motion made by Supervisor LaViolette and seconded by Supervisor Knier to suspend the rules and take Items 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, and 1f together. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion made by Supervisor Knier and seconded by Supervisor Moynihan to approve the minutes, Items 1a-1f. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Communications

2. **Communication from Supervisor Evans re: To appropriate additional funding for a security detail to monitor the CTC during a period of when the construction companies leave the facility until the facility is occupied—a period of 2 to 3 weeks (referred from July County Board Meeting):**

(Supervisors Evans and Fewell arrived at 6:03 p.m.)

Chair Evans said this was actually passed at the County Board. He said the Facilities Department has reported that the amount of time might be 6-8 weeks now. He also said he will work with this department to determine if this item should be brought back to this Committee.

Motion made by Supervisor Lund and seconded by Supervisor Knier to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Executive Committee Report: Item #3a(c)—To pursue an Operations and/or Management RFP for the Mental Health Center (referred from July County Board Meeting):**

Chair Evans said that since there should be a new Human Services Director, he suggested allowing that person to review this before proceeding.

Supervisor LaViolette asked for clarification; Supervisor Knier explained that this proposal is an alternative to hiring a head of the Mental Health Center (Nursing Home Administrator).

Supervisor Lund said that a department head for the Human Services Department is required. He continued by saying it might be a good idea to get a management RFP for that center.

Motion made by Supervisor Lund and seconded by Supervisor Moynihan to refer this to the December Committee Meeting.

Supervisor Fewell said he was not certain that this should ever be pursued. He thought originally the conversation was to hire a consultant to help with the move and the set-up of the new facility; and it is now too late in the process to consider doing that. However, he said this is a management contract, which means paying a significant amount in overhead for having an outside party come in and manage the employees. This creates anxiety and gives the impression that Brown County is privatizing the facility. He repeated that he is not in favor of keeping this on the agenda.

Supervisor Knier said she is concerned about leaving this on the table, because Brown County is in the process of trying to recruit someone to fill the position as head of the Mental Health Center. She said if this remains on the table, it could affect a candidate's decision to leave a job to accept this position. She said if someone wants to pursue this later, it could be brought back to the Committee.

Supervisor Scray asked the cost of pursuing the RFP; Supervisor Evans said the cost would be in staff time. Supervisor LaViolette stated that an RFP takes a lot of time. Supervisor Scray said it was her understanding that the decision to be

made would be either to hire a director or bring in a management group for the Mental Health facility. Her concern was that during her time on the County Board (5 ½ to 6 years) there have been at least three different directors; and each director has encountered the same problems repeatedly. She said she is not opposed to hiring a director, but does think the option should be reviewed because of past history with the same re-occurring issues with different directors. She said she thinks there are a lot of very good employees who are not receiving the needed leadership. She also said she is not opposed to waiting until December and agreed that a potential new director should be told that this is a possibility.

Supervisor LaViolette said it appears to her that “we are too far down the trail.” She agreed that it would be unfortunate to hire someone with the idea that Brown County would seriously consider bringing in outside management. She said she did not think that would create a healthy working environment, so she will vote against this motion.

Supervisor Fewell explained that in his experience a long-term-care management company would take a contract for this and then hire a Nursing Home Administrator, which means Brown County would be responsible for paying for both. So this would add to the overhead cost of operating this facility. Therefore, he would be more inclined to increase the salary of the Nursing Home Administrator in order to attract a more qualified individual.

Supervisors Lund and Moynihan withdrew the motion to refer this to the December Committee Meeting.

Motion made by Supervisor Lund and seconded by Supervisor Fewell to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- #3a. **Communication from Supervisor Scray re: Review Brown County requirements of ID when applying for any Social Services from the County. Discuss the possibility of making Brown County requirements of ID stricter to prevent fraud.**

Supervisor Scray thanked Chair Evans for adding this to the Agenda so promptly, and indicated that she plans to ask that this be held until next month. She said she had brought this up before, and the purpose is to institute stricter requirements (verifiable identification) for those people requesting government aid (food stamps, housing, etc.). She said that in the past Brown County was not allowed to request two forms of identification or picture identification. She recognized that a concern would be the effect on Federal funding. However, she thinks this deserves a “second look” in order to prevent people from obtaining benefits fraudulently.

Motion made by Supervisor Moynihan and seconded by Supervisor Lund to put on next month’s meeting. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Aging & Disability Resource Center:

4. Revenue & Expense Reports of June 30, 2009, and July 31, 2009.:

Motion made by Supervisor Fewell and seconded by Supervisor Moynihan to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Veterans Dept.

5. Report from Jerry Polus and 3 Veterans Commissioners:

Chair Evans said he received a call from Supervisor Krueger today saying Mr. Polus would ask that this be put on next month's meeting.

Motion made by Supervisor Fewell and seconded by Supervisor Lund to put on next month's meeting. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Human Services Dept.

6. Request for Budget Transfer (#09-60): Interdepartmental Transfer (including contingency or general fund transfers): Request to cover the Community Programs 2008 deficit in the amount of \$434,516. Major contributors to the shortfall were program expenditures in our alcohol and drug abuse and alternate care purchased services. See attached for additional details:

Motion made by Supervisor Fewell and seconded by Supervisor Moynihan to approve. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Dixon Hughes RFP:

Supervisor LaViolette stated that she thinks the objectives (to improve electronic health record system, lab information system, patient billing and accounting systems) of the program are extremely important. When she asked if there was money in the Budget for this, Jayme Sellen, interim Human Services Department liaison, said there is approximately \$800,000 and that this is a Federal mandate.

Chair Evans suggested that this be held for a month when it is anticipated that the Human Services Director position will be filled.

Supervisor LaViolette said a new Director may not be ready to discuss this in 1 month, so it might need to be referred for longer than 1 month.

Supervisor Lund asked Ms. Sellen if there would be funds available from a stimulus package for 2010. She said this does not qualify right now. She said there are some minor corrections that Kurt Hogarty, Purchasing Director, will make. Supervisor Lund asked Ms. Sellen what the cost of this electronic records system would be. She said based on about 60 responses, the costs range from about \$1 million to \$2.3 million; she said there are a lot of variables. Supervisor Lund asked if it would be advantageous to hire a temporary staff person to put this information into the new computer system. Mr. Hogarty explained that this is not only a record storage system, but rather a medical record system that would interface with payments and other areas. Supervisor Lund asked if there would be any cost savings for the taxpayers; how long is the pay-back? Supervisor Fewell stated that his understanding was that without this system, Brown County

would not receive reimbursement from Medicare and/or Medicaid. Mr. Hogarty explained that identifying the cost right now would not be realistic because of the numerous programs available while reviewing a needs assessment.

Ms. Sellen said she hoped this would be approved tonight in order to prevent further delays.

Motion made by Supervisor LaViolette and seconded by Supervisor Moynihan to approve. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. **Family Care Update:**

Ms. Sellen said the District is re-posting the Planning Director position, because only two applicants had experience. She said there is a website being developed for Family Care, and a timeline has been established.

Ms. Sellen said Jean O'Leary is Brown County's delegate right now. The next meeting with all the elected is scheduled for September 28, 2009.

Motion made by Supervisor LaViolette and seconded by Supervisor Lund to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. **Community Treatment Center Update:**

Mary Johnson, Nursing Services Administrator, said the Center is on schedule, and as soon as "hard hats come off" the staff can start going into the facility. The Open House will be October 6 at 5:00 p.m. for the Board. She opined that it is a beautiful facility, and the taxpayers will be pleased.

Motion made by Supervisor LaViolette and seconded by Supervisor Lund to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. **Mental Health Center Statistics (July 2009):**

Motion made by Supervisor Lund and seconded by Supervisor Moynihan to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. **Bellin Psychiatric Monthly Report (July 2009):**

Motion made by Supervisor Lund and seconded by Supervisor Moynihan to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. **Approval for New Non-Continuous Vendor:**

Motion made by Supervisor LaViolette and seconded by Supervisor Fewell to approve. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. **Request for New Vendor Contract:**

Motion made by Supervisor Fewell and seconded by Supervisor Knier to approve. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

14. **Monthly Contract Update;**

Motion made by Supervisor Lund and seconded by Supervisor Moynihan to approve. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. **Financial Report for Community Programs:**

Motion made by Supervisor LaViolette and seconded by Supervisor Lund to approve. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

16. **Financial Report for Mental Health Center:**

Motion made by Supervisor Lund and seconded by Supervisor Knier to approve. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

17. **Director's Report:**

Ms. Sellen said that reference/background checks are being completed on the potential new Human Services Director prior to making an offer to that person. The Budget has been presented to County Executive Tom Hinz.

Supervisor Fewell stated that he had received several calls during the past month concerning reorganization and layoffs going on at the Community Treatment Center. He said he was not aware of this; and according to Brown County Code, these decisions should be reviewed by this Committee. Ms. Johnson said it had been decided to move all employees to the new facility in their present positions. She also said there were no anticipated lay-offs; there is the same number of FTE's. She said there had been some discussion concerning reorganization to meet the needs of the new facility. She recognized that this was a very stressful time for the employees. She also said after reviewing this with Human Resources, it was determined that these changes could be made gradually through attrition.

Motion made by Supervisor Knier and seconded by Supervisor Fewell to suspend the rules to allow the public to speak. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Cheryl Jahnke said she works for the Community Treatment Program for Brown County. She said she is an LPN and the President of Local 1901. She said there has been a lot of stress with this move to the new building, partly due to fact that "no one was talking to us." She said there were three negotiations set up; the contract was opened early to "make this move go smoothly. And they kept cancelling on us, saying we are not ready..." She said there was one meeting that resulted in the union leaving. She said, "Comments were made that we did not appreciate, so we just got up and left; because we were kind of told in a roundabout way that we were stupid and didn't know anything. So we left." She said Mary (Johnson) was right; there were the same number of FTE's. But people would have had to work full weekends at ".8;" so those employees would have been 2 days' short in a pay period. This would have resulted in lost benefits and vacation. She said the contract does say that there should be no lay-offs through this year. She stated that "Management and H.R. did not want to communicate with us. We tried...We were really disappointed because we

thought we could sit down and work with them and try to make the move smooth for everybody, including the clients; because when the employees are upset, they don't do a good job." She said, "Now that this was taken back, and this whole thing was dropped, and everybody's moving over," today employees are smiling, laughing and looking forward to the move; they are not concerned about losing their jobs. She said she has explained to the employees that there may be changes, but hopefully it will affect the "lower senior" people.

Motion made by Supervisor Moynihan and seconded by Supervisor Lund to return to regular order of business. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion made by Supervisor Fewell and seconded by Supervisor Lund to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Health Dept.: No agenda items.

Syble Hopp School: No agenda items.

Veterans Dept.: No agenda items.

Other:

18. **Audit of Bills:**

Motion made by Supervisor Fewell and seconded by Supervisor Knier to pay the bills. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

19. **Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law: None.**

Motion made by Supervisor Fewell and seconded by Supervisor Moynihan to adjourn at 6:43 p.m. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Alexander
Recording Secretary